

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /061 W

----- 017722

R 261102Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7043

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 0798

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY CHIEF FAVORS EARLY ELECTIONS

1. DURING CALL BY COGENOFF FEBRUARY25, ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADER NUMAN UZUN SAID LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATION IS RECOMMENDING GENERAL ELECTIONS BE HELD NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1976. UZUN BELIEVES GOVERNMENT'S MARGIN IN BUDGET VOTE REPRESENTED MAXIMUM SUPPORT JP COULD HAVE EXPECTED, AND COULD CLEARLY BE CALLED A "VICTORY" FOR DEMIREL. HE FEELS THAT DEMIREL IS A CAPABLE LADER WHO HAS MANAGED TO GOVERN DESPITE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ADVERSITIES. UZUN THINKS, HOWEVER, THAT DEMIREL'S (AND THE JP'S) POPULARITY IS NEAR ITS CREST, AND THAT AN ELECTION SHOULD BE CALLED BEFORE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OR A WAVE OF "ANARCHY" SPOIL THE JP'S CHANCES. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES WILL OBJECT

TO VOTING THEMSELVES OUT OF OFFICE, UZUN BELIEVES DEMIREL COULD MUSTER NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR 1976 ELECTIONS. SINCE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO ANY EARLY ELECTION PROGRAM, UZUN THINKS NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY VOTES COULD BE OBTAINED.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT INTERNAL CHALLENGES TO DEMIREL'S LEADERSHIP,
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UZUN SAID THAT DEMIREL HAS SUCH TIGHT CONTROL OF JP'S PARTY

MACHINERY THAT NO RIVAL COULD UNSEAT HIM. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PARTY WAS ALERT TO ANY DIVISIVE ACTIVITIES. DURING CALL HE APPROVED DOCUMENT EXPELLING A PROMINENT(UNNAMED) JP MEMBER ON GROUNDS OF HAVING TRIED TO SPLIT JP BY CRITICISING THE LEADERSHIP AND EXPLOITING PARTY CONNECTIONS FOR FINANCIAL GAIN.

MACE

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